

Carefully read the passage. Then complete the task that follows.

My Trip to the City Aquarium

Most of the class was excited to find out we were going on a field trip to an aquarium. I was not. I had never been to an aquarium, so I didn't know what to expect. But something about the idea of spending the day looking at giant tanks filled with slimy creatures and fish did not excite me.

I knew I had to go; plus, my parents had always told me to learn about new things. I agreed with them. I decided I would try to be positive. I liked the idea of learning something new.

We boarded the bus and headed downtown, where the aquarium was located. When the bus pulled up to the building, I thought we were just stopping for a minute. Then I saw the sign that read "City Aquarium." I was amazed at the size of the building. It was massive with giant white pillars and wide stone steps. I wondered why they put fish in such a big building. It looked more like a state capitol building than an aquarium.

When we went inside, we were given our tickets. Because we were a school group, we each received a small souvenir. It was a postcard with a picture of shiny queen angelfish that is bright blue and yellow. I was surprised at how pretty the fish was.

As we moved into the giant building, our teachers had us get into groups. My group went down the first hallway toward a reef exhibit. At that point, I had no idea what to expect, but when we walked in, I was amazed! It was as if we were in the tank ourselves. The tank went from floor to ceiling and stretched down the entire hallway. It even went over our heads and under our feet. There were sharks above us and stingrays below us! I had never been so close to these unbelievable creatures. The sharks' skin looks like smooth leather as they quickly glided above us.

The rest of the aquarium, including a three-story tank, was just as fascinating. I never knew there were so many types of marine life living in different habitats. The colors of the coral and plant life were indescribable, as every color of the rainbow was present.

I will never forget my trip to the aquarium. It taught me to be open to new experiences, because there are some incredibly interesting things there. It also taught me that just because I don't know about something, it doesn't mean that I won't enjoy learning it..

The passage tells about a student taking a trip to an aquarium. **Write an essay analyzing how the student changes his or her opinion about the aquarium trip.** Use evidence from the passage to support your essay.

Use the Writer's Checklist to help you write your essay. You may reference the passage as often as you need.

Writer's Checklist

- _____ Does my essay have a clear idea that is connected to the writing prompt?
- _____ Does my essay show an understanding of the passage?
- _____ Do I stay focused on the writing prompt?
- _____ Do I support my ideas with strong evidence from the passage?
- _____ Do I need to take out evidence that DOES NOT support my ideas?
- _____ Is my response well-organized?
- _____ Have I used precise language and smooth transitions in my essay?
- _____ Have I spelled, punctuated, and capitalized my writing to help readers understand it?